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ANDEAN PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS ISSUE DECLARATION

PA111905 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] The foreign ministers of Andean Pact member countries have approved a document at the end of their meeting which will be submitted to their heads of state in Cartegena, Colombia, asking for more political power to negotiate. The five foreign ministers issued a brief declaration last night after 3 days of sessions. In it they say that they carefully analyzed what has been achieved by the members of the Andean Pact in their first decade. They also suggest recommendations and basic guidelines to continue the integration process subregionally and internationally. They stress the importance of having more political power to negotiate. Their aim is to present aspirations and reasonable demands according with a new international economic order that will permit the member countries to live under equal conditions of social justice. The documents to be submitted to the heads of state contain recommendations for a number of actions and mechanisms intended to strengthen the integration process which will lead to economic and social development.

Ministers Return Home

PA121955 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia returned to their respective countries yesterday after having completed their mission of preparing the outlines of the documents which will be discussed by the chiefs of state of the Andean group on 26 May in Cartagena, Colombia, on the 10th anniversary of the Andean Pact.

INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE BEGINS DEBATES

PY151234 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0054 GMT 15 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 May (LATIN)--With the participation of more than 100 delegates, the 18th annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences [IICA] began today under the sponsorship of the Organization of American States. The Bolivian minister of agriculture and campesino affairs, Col Felix Villarroel, opened the debates on behalf of the president of the military junta, Gen David Padilla, who did not attend the opening ceremony. Jose Emilio Araujo, director general of IICA, delivered a brief report on the tasks accomplished by the organization, saying that the poverty of the inhabitants of rural areas in American nations is still a subject of deep concern. Araujo asked the participants to use every means available to draw up policies which would increase the economic revenues of peasants and erradicate the hunger now affecting many of them. He added: "Our task of research in the scientific field should also be linked to a permanent search for solutions to the serious problems posed by poverty."

The Bolivian minister of agricultural affairs demanded "the unity of American peoples to find a solution to the geographic landlock of Bolivia." He emphasized the need to "accelerate the processess of agrarian reform in the nations of the American hemisphere and to modernize agricultural production systems." Villarroel requested that Bolivia become the headquarters of the study center for agrarian reform "in order to have an up-to-date picture of what happens in our nations in the rural field."

The agenda of debates for IICA includes the discussion of new projects such as rural development models. However, the meeting also plans to carry on an analysis of the agricultural situation on the American continent and of the social progress experienced in the rural field. The IICA debates will continue until Wednesday evening when their conclusions will be disclosed.

CANADIANS TO ASSIST IN PLANT CONSTRUCTION

PY141720 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1403 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Neuquen, Argentina, 14 May (LATIN)--A group of technicians from the Canadian Atomic Energy Commission today paid a visit to the neighboring locality of Arroyito, 50 km southwest of here, where Argentina plans to install a plant for producing heavy water, in order to gain knowledge of the nature of the environs, meterological conditions and the amount of disposable energy. According to a report released by the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission, the experts were accompanied by local technicians and they verified, in the field, theoretical data which Argentina had submitted to the nations which are interested in building the plant.

INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS WITH SAN JUAN GOVERNOR

PY142341 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 2009 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 May (NA)--The Interior Ministry reported this afternoon in a press release that Brig Gen Angel Manuel Zamboni (ret), governor of San Juan, has met with Gen Albano Harguindeguy to report on problems which "exist in the economic field of his cabinet," and which also concern the provincial Government Ministry. The communique from the Interior Ministry added that "the governor was called in by General Harguindeguy, who told the governor that the solution of problems which arise under provincial jurisdiction is the exclusive reponsibility of the governor and lies within his powers."

BRIEFS

ARRESTS, RELEASES--The executive branch has ordered that 13 persons are to be released from detention, and expelled two others from the country. Seven have been authorized to leave the country. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 May 79 PY]

GROWING VEHICLE PRODUCTION--Buenos Aires, 10 May (AFP)--The Industry Secretariat reported tonight that motor vehicle production increased by 82.7 percent in the first 4 months of this year in comparison with the same period last year. A total of 66,357 units were manufactured so far this year. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 May 79 PY]

EMBASSY TO OPEN IN IRAQ--Buenos Aires, 4 May (TELAM)--The national executive branch has approved the opening of an Argentine Embassy in Iraq with headquarters in Baghdad, in accordance with an agreement signed earlier to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1448 GMT 4 May 79 PY]

MINERAL EXPLOITATION INCREASED--San Salvador de Jujuy, 8 May (NA)--Pelayo Pena, national mining economy director, reported here that the mineral exploitation in Argentina in the first quarter of this year amounted to $8.2 million, which means an increase of 5.1 percent compared to the same period last year. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1322 GMT 9 May 79 PY]

COLOMBIAN AIR CHIEF--Buenos Aires, 8 May (TELAM)--Invited by the Argentine Air Force, Gen Raul Paredes Diago, commander in chief of the Colombian Air Force, arrived on his first official visit. General Paredes will attend an exhibition of Argentine-made planes and visit several air force detachments. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0225 GMT 9 May 79 PY]

INDIAN MOVEMENT NOMINATES PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

PY142255 LA Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 May 79 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] The second national convention of the Tupac Katari Indian Movement [MITKA] has nominated Luciano Tapia Quisbert and Eufronio Velez Magne as presidential and vice presential candidates for the upcoming elections. The resolution states that the ticket "is the genuine representation of the Aymra-Quechua people and is the only alternative for the oppressed indian." The candidates will begin their election campaign next week.

ELECTORAL COURT ASSURES CONTINUED DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

PY120257 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1813 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 11 May (LATIN)--Spokesmen for the National Electoral Court have asserted that the cabinet crisis in the government will have absolutely no effect on the election schedule, nor will it postpone the elections announced for 1 July.

Electoral Court President Marcelo Cespedes today told LATIN: "The ministerial changes which President David Padilla could make will in no way affect the democratization process or the election schedule."

In addition, he played down the importance of the resignation of one of the members of that institution. Cespedes said: "The resignation of an official does not in any way mean there is a crisis within the court or that it could affect the constitutionalization process now underway.

"The realization of the elections is guaranteed by the government military junta and the few incidents which have cropped up do not endanger the return to a state of law in Bolivia," the court president said.

Steps To Increase Registration Urged

PY142336 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1618 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 May (LATIN)--Sources of the National Electoral Court have told LATIN that the organization today requested the government to take strict measures to force the citizenry to register for the elections. National Electoral Court President Marcelo Cespedes said: "The Bolivian people have an undisguised indifference toward participation in the next general elections, and this situation has caused deep concern." According to statistics drawn up by that institution, only 500,000 persons are legally able to vote only 16 days before voter registration ends.

The government has been asked to take emergency measures such as requesting the electoral voting card, a document which is essential to voting, at banks and public institutions where people go to carry out administrative tasks. It is hoped that there will be about 1.7 million votes during the next elections if this indifference does not persist.

DANGER OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER PRESS STRESSED

PY142353 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 May 79 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "The Government and the Press"]

[Excerpts] There are many issues we could comment on today, Journalists Day. Among them we can emphasize recent government efforts to control whatever is published, providing reasons which are valid in principle, but which are then distorted in such a way as to destroy the freedom of the press, while apparently working toward it.

For example, this happened with a proposal made by communist regimes and presented to UNESCO. It began successfully, but failed in the end. Its basis was that there should be a balance of information on the international level--there is reason to this--in order to then arrive at the fact--and here comes the bait--that the government should be responsible for publications, and therefore control them as is done under those regimes.

This control could easily lead to the circulation of only official publications--as it has in those countries--which supposedly would be the only ones defending the interests of the people and workers.

Fortunately, in Bolivia we are now undergoing a phase in which all ideological currents have the chance to found whatever publication they may wish, without being punished for publishing what they think.

Therefore, we are in a situation which deserves to be continued and improved.

To take another path may seem encouraging to those who do not know what has happened in several nations. On the other hand, those who do have that experience will not allow themselves to be lured by siren songs, even though at one point they may have been sung under the sponsorship of the United Nations institution for education and culture.

BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION PROTESTS MILITARY STATIONS

PY121458 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 12 May (AFP)--The Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association (ASBORA) issued an official communique today opposing the creation of a military network of radio stations. The ASBORA communique says that "the appearance of new military radio stations is an attack against private radio broadcasting in the country."

The armed forces currently operate a radio station in La Paz, "Radio Batallon Colorados," and another in Oruro, "Radio Batallon Topater." The military command has announced the installation of two more military radio stations, one in Cochabamba and another in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

BRIEFS

UN AMBASSADOR RESIGNS--La Paz, 10 May (AFP)--The military government junta today accepted the resignation submitted last week by Mario Rolon Anaya, Bolivian ambassador to the United Nations. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 10 May 79 PY]

OIL WORKERS STRIKE--La Paz oil industry workers declared a 24-hour strike to protest the lack of attention by Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] to their suggestions for solutions to salary and union problems. In a communique, they stated that their action is based solely on union and economic issues and has nothing to do with politics. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 May 79 p 3 PY]

POLIO THREAT GROWING--New polio cases have cropped up in La Paz and there are an undetermined number of cases north of La Paz and in the Beni Department, according to the La Paz health unit. According to latest reports, the number of reported polio cases has reached 38. However, unofficial reports put the number at more than 50. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 May 79 p 11 PY]

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

PY150045 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Ma'ruf arrived in Brasilia tonight for a 4-day visit accompanied by Information Minister Sa'd Hammudi. He was welcomed at the airport by Vice President Aureliano Chaves, Foreign Minister Sariva Guerreiro and the Iraqi ambassador to Brazil.

The Iraqi vice president will be given a dinner at Itamaraty at 2100 tonight and tomorrow he will begin his agenda by meeting with the Brazilian foreign minister. He will give a luncheon at 1300 at the Naval Club for Vice President Aureliano Chaves and Foreign Minister Guerreiro.

In the afternoon he will visit with President Figueiredo, the presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and [name indistinct], and in the evening he will end his visit to Brasilia with a press conference.

FOURTEEN MORE DEATH SQUAD VICTIMS FOUND

PY142358 Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 14 May (AFP)--It was reported here today that the bodies of 14 victims of the death squad were found during the last 48 hours in the Belfort Roxo municipality near this city. The report, disclosed by the news agency of the Sao Paulo newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO adds that "the police of this violent region of Rio de Janeiro state consider the number of dead to be rather high."

The death squad is a clandestine organization which, according to accusations repeatedly made by the Brazilian press, is made up of policemen. The police authorities, who deny the existence of this macabre clandestine organization, attribute the mysterious assassinations of criminals to the settling of accounts among rival gangs. However, during the last few years, several former policemen have been sentenced to long prison terms for having participated in murders attributed to the death squad.

GENERAL ABREU'S LAWYERS CLAIM ILLEGAL ARREST

PY111704 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] Lawyers (Rafael de Almeida Magalhaes) and (Claudio Lacombe) today presented writs of habeas corpus in favor of Gen Hugo de Abreu, who has been under arrest since 7 May at the army's military compound in Rio de Janeiro. The army minister had ordered his 20-day disciplinary arrest. In their petition for habeas corpus the lawyers stress the illegality of General Abreu's arrest because the army minister is in no position to order the disciplinary arrest of retired officers since he has no jurisdiction over them.

The two lawyers concluded by asking the Federal Court of Appeals to grant a writ of habeas corpus for the general because a retired officer does not have any active military function and cannot, therefore, commit a misdemeanor by virtue of a function which he does not have, and so he is not subject to a disciplinary action. He must, therefore, be granted habeas corpus to recover the freedom illegally taken from him.

BRIEFS

RECORD WHEAT CROP EXPECTED--Brasilia--According to the latest estimate of the Production Financing Commission [CFP] Brazil will have a record wheat crop in the 1978-79 harvest if weather and sanitary conditions remain the same. According to CFP estimates, the harvest will net between 3.8 and 4 million tons. [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 12 May 79 PY]

U.S. REQUESTS TO EXTRADITE LETELIER CASE SUSPECTS REJECTED

PY141527 Paris AFP in Spanish 1454 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 May (AFP)--A Chilean judge here today rejected the extradition request made by the United States against three military officers involved in the "Letelier case."

Gen Manuel Contreras, Col Pedro Espinoza and Capt Armando Fernandez have been charged by a U.S. judge with the murder of former Chilean Socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier who had been living in exile in Washington.

Judge Explains Decision

PY150116 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 79 PY

[Text] I rejected the extradition requests because I believed the proof presented to be insufficient for submitting the accused to trial or for declaring them criminals. This statement was made by Israel Borquez, president of the Supreme Court, in announcing his decision concerning the case against Gen Manuel Contreras, Col Pedro Espinoza and Capt Armando Fernandez Larios.

He explained that the decision to reject the extradition request was due to insufficient evidence, in the judge's opinion, to prove that there was well-based suspicion as required by the extradition agreement signed with the United States in 1902 and by Chilean law.

Borquez added that he rejected the extradition request since he did not believe the situation warranted such action. He explained that the case against the officers, in any case, should be dealt with by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will act as an appeals court.

Borquez said that the officers arrest status will be maintained until the court's decision [word indistinct]. This, the supreme court president said, is more proof of the independence of the judicial branch in Chile.

Gen Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, after being informed of the court's decision this morning, commented that Chilean justice is real justice.

NEWSPAPERS REPORT ARGENTINE SPY OPERATION AGAINST CHILE

PY120201 Paris AFP in Spanish 0046 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 May (AFP)--The evening newspaper LA SEGUNDA reported here today that Argentina has set up a "huge boundary area espionage operation" against Chile and has violated this country's airspace.

In this way the publication added to rumors which had been circulating during the past few days after a report that an Italian plane had disappeared last Sunday in the Andean mountain range, about 1,000 km south of Santiago.

A series of radio signals broadcast during the past 2 days by the crew of the alleged plane alerted the Chilean Air Force [FACH], which definitely dismissed the possibility of an accident on Monday.

"A vast boundary area espionage operation motivated the whole story of the mysterious plane which had an accident in the mountains," LA SEGUNDA said in a report from its special correspondents in the southern city of Puerto Montt.

The newspaper stated: "The whole story originated in Argentina, from where the signals were coming."

Another Santiago newspaper, LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, asserted that the female voice which ham radio operators could hear in the messages requesting aid had an Argentine accent.

LA SEGUNDA reported that ham radio operators in the region conducted a triangular operation with their antennas to detect the origin of the transmissions and concluded that they were coming from the Argentine region of Neuquen.

The newspaper indicated that there is "an important military and gendarmerie base" in Neuquen.

Reports heard in Santiago and Puerto Montt said that a plane from Milan with (?20) occupants had made an emergency landing in the Rio Manso mountain area.

The newspaper report disclosed here today asserts that "apparently this is the area which the Argentines are interested in flying over."

Argentine Pucara-type and twin-engine Otter planes repeatedly violated Chilean air space during the past few days in this region, the report in LA SEGUNDA said, citing sources from the air force and the carabineros.

The report's headline, published on the paper's front page, states, "Argentina Used Italian Plane To Spy on Us."

NAVAL COMMANDER VOWS NATION WILL DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY

PY142327 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1846 GMT 13 May 79 py

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 May (LATIN)--According to remarks published here today by the morning newspaper EL MERCURIO, the commander in chief of the navy, Adm Jose Toribio Merino, has warned that Chile will defend it sovereignty until the last if someone tries to attack it. The government military junta member also emphasized that "Chile is a country which does not accept impositions or slavery," nor does it "want to mutilate its neighbors."

According to EL MERCURIO, the high-ranking naval officer placed special emphasis on the deep patriotic spirit of the Chilean citizen, a feeling which surfaces during the nation's most critical moments. He said in this regard that the reawakening of this spirit occurred in Chile at the end of last year in response to the possibility of an armed conflict with Argentina over the Beagle Channel dispute.

Merino also expressed his confidence in the Vatican's mediation in the dispute, and showed some surprise at the remarks made recently on this issue by Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla. According to news reports, Videla said in a speech made in Tucuman that he was considering other alternatives, "among which the possibility of war is not dismissed," in case papal mediation fails. Merino added: "One must remember that President Videla is in a complicated political situation and has to say something to please his people."

BRIEFS

UNESCO COLLEGE CLOSES--Santiago, Chile, 9 May (AFP)--Angel Fisfish, head of the UNESCO Institution the Latin American College for Social Studies [Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales--FLACSO] in Santiago, officially reported today that the Chilean branch of this institute will close down in July. A decree signed by the government annulled, for economic reasons, an agreement signed in 1970 authorizing this organization to function in Chile. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 10 May 79 PY]

BELGIAN PRINCE ALBERT MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

PA150339 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Belgium today had an intensive day of talks with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, two of his ministers, the mayor of Bogota and the general manager of the Colombian Coffee Federation. His Royal Highness thus ended his first 28 hours in the country, accompanied by a retinue of some 42 persons, including the Belgian Foreign Trade and Science minister, Lucien Outers. Prince Albert, brother of King Bedouin, arrived at San Carlos Palace at the scheduled time of 1530 and after presenting his personal identity card to the receptionist, like any other visitor, proceeded to his talks with President Turbay Ayala, with whom he talked for over 1 hour. He left the palace without talking to reporters, explaining that he preferred collective discussions to individual interviews.

ARRESTED VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS RETURNED

PA142309 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The three Venezuelan soldiers who were arrested by the police in the Arauca intendancy were turned over this morning to Venezuelan authorities. With this, the problem that had arisen along the Colombian-Venezuelan border was resolved.

FARC GUERRILLAS ATTACK TOWN, EXECUTE 3 PEASANTS

PA142003 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Medellin--A few hours ago, a guerrilla column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) seized the town of Curulao, Turbo municipality, Antioquia Department. According to reports obtained by this radio station, 20 well-armed insurgents carrying army weapons attacked the village, sacked it and exeucted 3 peasants. At this moment, troops from the 4th Brigade are carrying out a large operation in the region in an effort to capture the attackers.

PLA GUERRILLA HIDEOUT DISCOVERED IN BOGOTA

PA112222 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0108 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 10 May (EFE)--Colombian Security Services today discovered a hideout of the Pedro Leon Arboleda (PLA) guerrilla organization in Bogota. A police spokesman said that the guerrillas had explosives and subversive literature in the hideout and that three members of a PLA urban cell had been arrested. The same source said that the hideout was also used to train activists for propaganda activities in the country's leading cities.

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Bogota--Two drug traffickers were arrested at Eldorado Airport today when they tried to bring in a considerable amount of pure cocaine. Patricia Quintero and Maria Teresa (Roalcedo) Martinez arrived in Bogota aboard a plane from Leticia, located on the border with Brazil. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 May 79 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO IRAN--The government has appointed Antonio Mallona Ortiz extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Iran. This post is vacant at the present time. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 79 PA]

ROLDOS HINTS NATION WILL JOIN NONALINED

PA150213 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima--Ecuadorean President-Elect Jaime Roldos stated that he could not face the failure of his effort to establish social justice in that country of 8 million inhabitants. If we fail, he said during an interview aired last night on Peruvian television, our fall would precipitate the establishment of an ultrarightist regime and would mean that the peaceful path to democracy was only a utopian dream.

Vice President-Elect Oswaldo Hurtado, who together with Roldos made statements for Peruvian television, dismissed any attempt to prevent Roldos from occupying the Ecuadorean presidency. The scope of our victory, Hurtado said, and the interest it has aroused in Latin America and the rest of the world, make this very improbable.

Roldos, a 30-year old reformist lawyer who was born in Guayaquil, obtained an overwhelming victory over his conservative opponent among three South American countries which are supposed to return to civilian rule in the coming months. The other two are Bolivia and Peru.

Roldos affirmed that our hope to make democracy viable in Ecuador must not fail, not only because of us. but because of what Latin America expects of us. Roldos and Hurtado, a 39-year-old Christian Democrat, were interviewed in Quito by the television program "Contacto Directo."

The young president-elect suggested that Ecuador might join the nonalined movement, noting that Latin America is lagging behind the other developing countries in their efforts to achieve a new international economic order. Roldos confirmed that Ecuador will continue to be a member of OPEC, but he believes that the OPEC members should be more sensitive to the demands of underdeveloped countries that are affected more directly by the consequences of the oil price hike.

Roldos defined his government platform as a model of balance between the search for economic development and social justice. On political models, he said that his government will have more in common with Venezuela and that the Latin American solution cannot be found in the type of development that has severed large social sectors from economic benefits. Nor can it be centered on the social justice programs that have resulted in crises in some nations of the region. Instead it should be based on a definite formula of balance designed to achieve both objectives, he added.

Among the principal actions his government will tackle, Roldos mentioned five reforms: agrarian, administrative, credit and education. [as heard] Regarding his agrarian reform plan, he explained that it will be applied to forms of production and exploitation before setting limits on property.

CFP LEADER BUCARAM MENTIONS POSSIBLE PARTY DISPUTE

PA150224 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Asaad Bucaram, supreme director of the Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP), reminded Vice President-Elect Oswaldo Hurtado that his party does not accept temporary members and, admitting indirectly the existence of some conflicts, he said that if these exist they should be taken up by the party.

Bucaram made it clear that he intends to reach the presidency of the National Chamber of Representatives based on the rights conferred on him by the 36 seats which, according to him, the CFP won in the recent elections.

Responding to questions by the newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, Bucaram also criticized the Supreme Electoral Tribunal for trying to deprive the CFP of four seats won in the elections.

Asked about an alleged rift between the members of the winning CFP ticket in the presidential elections, he replied: I cannot be explaining this at every moment. If there are any differences with Hurtado or anyone else, it is up to the party to resolve them, he stated.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ANDEAN PACT MEETING

PA141550 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1235 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Radio Quito interviewed Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso at the conclusion of the Andean Pact Foreign Ministers Conference and asked him about the outcome of the meeting.

[Begin Ayala Lasso recording] The meeting we held in Quito with Andean Pact foreign ministers has been, as expected, very productive, We have agreed on the texts of the draft documents that will be submitted to the Andean Pact heads of state. They will be studied by them and will constitute [words indistinct] the contribution [words indistinct]. That was our objective and we have met it in the fullest sense. Consequently, we may conclude that the Quito meeting was successful.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, you and the other foreign ministers look very tired. Have the talks been very difficult?

[Answer] No, the talks have not been very difficult. The problems are many and complex and we have had to study them in depth. Fatigue is a physical reaction, but the spirit is ready and willing.

[Question] [words indistinct]

[Answer] Because the concept which has prevailed is that the integration process surpasses the purely economic aspect. It is projected into other fields--cultural, social, educational and so forth.

[Question] And the political?

[Answer] Our liberators' desire was always to form a great nation of republics, as is contained in one of Simon Bolivar's famous statements. I think that this old and cherished desire is still alive in Latin America. [end recording]

BRIEFS

DESERTIFICATION INCREASING--Desertification has spread so rapidly that in the past 25 years the amount of arid land has increased by 31.5 percent, according to a report by Ecuadorean engineer Sixto Moran Pinto which was released in Quito yesterday. The analysis says that out of 134,000 square km of Ecuador's coastal and mountainous terrain, 10,000 have been classified as arid land. One of the causes is uncontrolled logging. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

MINISTER EXPLAINS CUBAN ASYLUM REQUEST

PA150021 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry is awaiting a report from the Venezuelan ambassador in Havana regarding the request for political asylum submitted by 12 Cubans who Saturday night entered the Venezuelan Embassy in that Caribbean island. Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco told us this but abstained from any further comment on the situation at the Venezuelan Embassy in El Salvador.

[Begin Zambrano recording] [Question] Has the case of the Cubans who sought asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana been classified as a political incident?

[Answer] It has not been classified as yet. We have requested all the information which will permit us to learn exactly what happened. Later, we will analyze and interpret the facts and finally issue instructions to the ambassador to act in accordance with the decisions reached.

[Question] It is said Mr Minister that [words indistinct] would be willing to send an airplane from Venezuela to pick up the Cuban exiles. Is that so?

[Answer] That is anticipating things a bit. We are waiting for some sort of conclusion.

[Question] What has been the attitude of the Cuban Government on this?

[Answer] I do not know. Therefore, I cannot anticipate anything until Venezuela requests specific [words indistinct]. [end recording]

SENATOR STATES COUNTRY'S POSITION ON CARIBBEAN

PA150142 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] During a meeting between Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco and the Senate Foreign Policy Committee, problems pertaining to the Caribbean area were discussed. Here are statements by Senator Edecio Larriba Araujo who heads the Foreign Policy Committee;

[Begin Larriba recording] I want to say specifically that the foreign minister told the committee that Venezuela is very much interested in having relations with the Republic of Grenada in the manner deemed most convenient to the interests of the two countries. For us it is very important to have good relations with all the countries of the Caribbean because Venezuela is a country that is interested in the situation in that very important region. Allow me to tell you something very interesting about Grenada. It is very important for Venezuela to have relations with Grenada. We are going to establish a high-level commission and we plan to establish an embassy in that part of the Caribbean very soon. The situation in that area is very important to us because Venezuela is very aware of the fact that no country should harbor expansionist ambitions in the Caribbean. Anything on this is vitally important to us. The necessary balance and indispensable relations must be established to preclude this expanionism.

[Question] Is this a direct allusion to the Cuban penetration in that country?

[Answer] If you want to interpret it in that way, you may, because it applies to any country that harbors expansionist positions in the Caribbean area.

COLOMBIANS ATTACK THREE VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS

PA142313 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Three Venezuelan soldiers were beaten by a Colombian mob in the village of La Parrilla located at km 3 on the Petare-Santa Lucia highway. The soldiers were identified as Dimas Ponce and the brothers Pedro Luis and Luis Jose Bovada Carreno, who had to be taken to the Perez de Leon hospital in Petare. The three soldiers were reportedly in La Parrilla visiting their mothers on occasion of Mother's Day, and apparently the incident started when one of the soldiers and a villager became involved in a dispute. Immediately after, the villagers, all Colombians, took sticks and whatever else they could get their hands on and brutally beat the soldiers, who despite every effort to defend themselves were unable to stop their attackers who outnumbered them. The military police and Petare's metropolitan police units had to intervene to restore order. A total of 13 Colombians were arrested and are being questioned in connection with this incident.

THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN CARIBBEAN SEEN

PA131200 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 May 79 p 1 PA

[Unattributed article: "Shall We Allow the Caribbean To Become Communist?"]

[Excerpts[If the United States and Venezuela, with the support of the free countries on the continent, do not give them the necessary economic and military support, the new republics in the Caribbean will fall inevitably under Russian control through Fidel Castro, Russia's ally in Latin America. We especially mention the United States and Venezuela not only because they are the countries with the greatest resources but because they would be the most affected if that possibility were to become a reality.

First, there is the example of Manley's government and, second, the Bishop government in Grenada. In both cases the rulers are not communists. Manley and Bishop are natives of their respective islands and were educated in London with the ideas of socialization currently taught in British universities. Great Britain was not too long ago the birthplace of the most conservative thinking.

It has been the lack of economic and military support for these regimes which has forced them to accept the Cuban Government's offers with the inevitable political commitments attached. This is how we view the Jamaican economy today. It is an economy which has ended up being controlled by Moscow with the signing of a contract to export almost all of its production of aluminim, which is Jamaica's main resource, to Russia. This is a very important raw material which could have been acquired by the industrialized countries in the west.

If Venezuela could not find a market for its oil in the free world and was forced to sell it to Russia in order to meet its needs, we would be in a situation similar to that of Jamaica with the obligation of repaying Moscow's economic support. If the Caribbean area is controlled, Venezuela's oil will be isolated from the free world. Is this the purpose of the strategy?

The small republics in the Caribbean do not have any resource that would draw such interest but they do have their geographical location which gives them great strategic importance militarily in controlling other resources, mainly those of Venezuela. We denounce this worrisome situation and urge Venezuela to remain on the alert. Grenada is only 40 miles off our eastern coast, Trinidad is almost adjacent and the Caribbean is the route of our oil.

FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON LOAN, ECONOMY

PA150201 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Rosalina Pinzon interview with Finance Minister Ernesto Perez Balladares on President Royo's recent trip on 14 May--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] During President Royo's visit to several European nations, businessmen from Europe and Japan agreed to grant Panama a loan of $135 million. How is this money going to be distributed?

[Answer] The funds obtained from that loan will be used mainly for financing the government's 1979 development plans. Specifically electrification, health, educational and communications projects. This will take approximately $110 million. The remaining funds will be used to cancel a previous debt of higher interest rates and shorter term.

[Question] What is the economic growth rate of the country so far this year and what are the prospects for the coming months?

[Answer] For the first time in nearly 4 years, the economic growth rate in 1978 showed an increase--2.5 percent. The initial figures for the first 3-month period of this year are showing a real growth rate of 4 percent. We hope this rate will be maintained at 4 percent for the rest of 1979.

OPERATIONS BEGUN TO PREVENT FURTHER DISTURBANCES

PA150153 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Units of the various National Guard departments this morning started an operation designed to maintain public order and protect the personal integrity of the residents and property in this capital, upon request from the Government and Justice Ministry.

Personnel from the Transportation, Infantry, Cavalry, City Police and Air Force departments are on constant watch to prevent disorders that transgress people's safety, business establishments and private property, in general.

At the same time this morning, it was announced that the National Government will enforce respect for the constitutional provisions that regulate public meetings. Organizers of such meetings must inform the proper authorities 24 hours in advance; otherwise, any public meeting will be dispersed by the National Guard.

This preventive action put into operation by the National Guard this morning will discourage any new vandalism such as that of recent days when agitators destroyed public and private property and vehicles.

BRIEFS

AERONAUTICAL AGREEMENT--The Panamanian and Colombian governments have signed an aeronautical agreement designed to increase tourism, passenger traffic, mail, and air cargo. The agreement, which will be valid for 1 year, was signed by Captain Hermes Carrizo, director general of Civil Aeronautics of Panama, and Guillermo Gaviria Echeverry, director of Civil Aeronautics of Colombia. The new agreement will go into effect as of 15 May 1979. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

SEARCH FOR FLEEING SANDINISTS CONTINUING

PA150311 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Rural guard sources said this afternoon that at least 10 Sandinists are still at large in Alajuela Canton. (?Ruben, Jorge and Lugo), the three who were captured this morning in the vicinity of the [word indistinct] plant were this afternoon turned over to the Judicial Investigations Department, just like the seven captured yesterday on a farm located in La Garita.

The rural guard as well as those arrested in Grecia have said that none of the Sandinists is armed, contrary to official sources of [words indistinct] where it was said that they were apparently heavily armed, in which case it would be possible to file formal charges with the Justice Ministry for possession of forbidden arms.

EL SALVADOR

EMBASSY SITUATION UNCERTAIN, VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Diplomats Seek Ministry Protection

PA150407 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0120 GMT 15 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)--The diplomatic corps accredited in El Salvador today asked the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry to guarantee their security or otherwise the diplomatic missions may leave the country.

The request was made during a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry's Hall of Honor during which they discussed the occupation of the French and Venezuelan embassies by activists of the leftist People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which is demanding the release of three of its leaders and five other members.

Meeting With Venezuelan Envoy

PA141919 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador--Regulo Velasco, the Caracas government's special envoy in connection with the occupation of the Venezuelan Embassy here, met yesterday with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth. No information has been released on the topics they discussed, but it is believed that the main issue was the embassy's seizure on Friday by several members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc.

Occupation of 3 More Churches

PA150011 Paris AFP in Spanish 2037 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 May (AFP)--The People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] today peacefully occupied three more churches, one of them in San Salvador and two in cities in the country's interior, to support its demands against Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's government. The church of El Rosario in San Salvador, a church in Popo (9 km from San Salvador) and a third in Suchitoto, 39 km from San Salvador, were occupied by the BPR, which already controls the French and Venezulan embassies and the San Salvador Cathedral. At the same time high school students occupied several schools in San Salvador to demonstrate support for the BPR. So far these occupations have been peaceful and there have been no acts of violence and no taking of hostages.

Denial of More BPR Being Held

PA141928 Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 May (AFP)--None of the four new members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) whose release is demanded by the Marxist organization are in the hands of the authorities, AFP was told today by Col Rafael Flores Lima, official spokesman of the Salvadoran presidency. Of the nine alleged prisoners demanded by the BPR "we only had two, Facundo Guardado and Rivardo Mena, who have already been released," Flores Lima said, adding that "the others have not been in prison at any time."

Asked about this strange "disappearance", the colonel said that he thought the men had gone underground. "It is common for the BPR to hide its members and then try to exert pressure, making it appear that they have been imprisoned," he said. The colonel also said that the Salvadoran Government is thinking of decreeing a state of siege if the violence continued. The last state of siege was lifted in June 1977.

Demand for Return of BPR

PA150441 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1842 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)--The People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], a leftist organization which has occupied the French Embassy since 4 May and the Venezuelan Embassy since 11 May, today demanded the immediate return of three of its members who were sent by Costa Rica to Panama as refugees. The BPR is thereby increasing its intial demands for the release of three of its members which the government claims not to have in its power. The demands are an end to repression, release of those who were wounded and are missing after the violent incidents of 8 May, in which approximately 19 were killed, and removal of the military guard around the French and Venezuelan embassies and the occupied metropolitan cathedral.

French Envoy on Embassy Seizure

PA141806 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] The French Government's envoy to the negotiations aimed at obtaining the release of the 6 hostages being held by 16 guerrillas at the French Embassy in San Salvador said that he had personally intervened before the Salvadoran Government to obtain the release of 2 imprisoned activists. We have met all the demands made 1 week ago when the embassy was seized, Philippe Cuvillier, the French Government's delegate. said during an interview. There is no reason for the continued occupation of the French Embassy, he added.

Call for Demonstration

PA131949 Paris AFP in Spanish 1702 GMT 13 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 May (AFP)--A demonstration in support of the demands of the People's Revolutionary Bloc, which is occupying the embassies of France and Venezuela and the cathedral, was called today for tomorrow. The demonstration is being organized by the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), an illegal organization which, nevertheless, operates publicly and which is made up of students, workers and professionals. FAPU is an independent branch of the BPR, with which it has differences on matters of procedure although they both are opposed to the government. In the meantime, the BPR announced today that it asked the UN Human Rights Commission to investigate the way in which some of its sympathizers were killed during a demonstration on 8 May.

Appeal for End to Violence

PA140407 Paris AFP in Spanish 2024 GMT 13 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 May (AFP)--Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of this capital, today called for an end to violence in the country and described as "fair" the demand made by the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] that the political arrests in El Salvador be condemned in other countries. Msgr Romero told newsmen that he does not agree with the occupation of the cathedral in San Salvador because "the occupation is ineffectual and the problems of the people cannot be solved through violence."

GUATEMALA

'DEATH SQUAD' EXECUTES 11 'CRIMINALS'

PA142000 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1844 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan police disclosed today that 11 persons were murdered in Guatemala in the past 24 hours. These new executions, by revolver or knife, are attributed to the "death squad" which in the past few months has been pursuing and killing recidivist common delinquents.

According to the police, five bodies were found in the capital and six in the interior of the country, all with similar characteristics--numerous bullet or knife wounds, a coup de grace and the hands tied behind the back. The National Police Identification Department is trying to identify the victims.

NICARAGUA

WAVE OF CLASHES RESULTS IN 70 DEATHS

PA111815 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1645 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 May (ACAN-EFE)--According to several reports released today, the wave of armed clashes in Nicaragua in midweek has resulted in 70 deaths. Most of the casualties were reported in the area of Nueva Guinea, on the Atlantic coast, where the presence of an international guerrilla force, estimated at 120 men, has been officially reported.

A Nicaraguan National Guard communique released in this capital affirms that 61 members of that "invading group" which entered national territory from a camp in Costa Rica through the area of Los Sabalos died in battles with the military. The rest of the column managed to escape back into Costa Rica. Several of them are being persecuted by the Nicaraguan Army, whose casualties include two dead and six injured.

NOVEDADES REPORTS GUERRILLA COLUMN'S DESTRUCTION

PA141928 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua--The paper NOVEDADES, owned by the Somoza family, says today that an invading column has been wiped out and that the guerrillas' leader, Adolfo Garcia Barbarena, also known as Domingo, died in combat in Nueva Guinea. According to reports by the Nicaraguan Army's Intelligence Services, the revolutionary forces, made up of 120 men, had come from the Sandinists' base located near Giudad Quezada in Costa Rican territory.

FSLN LEADER SCORES IMF LOAN IN INTERVIEW

PA150336 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 79 PA

[Interview with Tomas Borges, leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front "somewhere in Nicaragua"; date not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Don Tomas, today in Washington the IMF approved a loan of $65.7 million for Somoza. What consequences will this have for the country?

[Answer] Well, it is another burden our country will have to bear after the Somoza tyranny falls. Unfortunately, that money will not be used for Nicaragua's development but for purchasing arms and other means to murder our people. That is the moral responsibility of the IMF now. We affirm as of now that we will be obliged to respect international legal norms and pay that debt. Unfortunately that is so because we are serious people and we are completely certain that we will be obliged to repay the enormous debt which Somoza incurred to murder and exploit our people.

LEADERS RELEASED, 2 SENTENCED TO PRISON

PY142322 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1958 GMT 14 May 79 PY

[Text] Managua, 14 May (LATIN)--It was officially announced today that two prominent leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition, Alfonso Robelo Callejas and Rafael Cordoba Rivas, were freed today along with a low-ranking official of the so-called Broad Opposition Front (FAO). However, two leaders of another opposition organization, the National Patriotic Front (FPN), were sentenced to 6 months in prison, the authorities said.

Robelo and Cordoba are considered to be the highest-ranking leaders of the FAO, while Julio Cesar Aviles, another of the organization's leaders was also freed. The three were freed by a court order 3 days after U.S. Under Secretary of State Warren Christopher called the ambassador of Nicaragua, Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa, to his office to protest the imprisonment of the leaders of the moderate Nicaraguan opposition movement.

Robelo and Cordoba had been arrested just before 1 May when they were trying to organize a demonstration for International Labor Day. The director of customs ordered the release of Aviles, who had been accused of arms trafficking. Instead, the two leaders of the FPN, Ali Montalbano, the secretary general of the Communist Party, and Doctor Jose Luis Medina, were sentenced today to 180 days in prison for subversive activities.

SANDINISTS STAGE ROBBERY OF BANK OF AMERICA

PA122010 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua--Three Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] guerrillas carried out a spectacular robbery today, carrying away with them 280,000 cordobas, ($28,000), from the vaults of the Bank of America. The Sandinist assault started early this morning when three armed Sandinists, one wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase, broke into the home of Oscar Morales, the Bank of America manager. Two of the three armed men stayed in the house, holding Morales' family hostage, while the one wearing the suit left with Morales for the bank. Morales and the Sandinist went to the bank and walked straight to the vault in the presence of everyone. Morales handed over all the money to the Sandinist. Afterward, Morales was taken back to his home and finally, the three FSLN members left. Other banks in Diriamba and Chinandega also were held up in operations similar to the one carried out by the three Sandinists.

FIDEL CASTRO TO VISIT MEXICO 17-18 MAY

FL150032 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, will make a state visit to Mexico at the invitation of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo. The meeting between the leaders of the two countries will be held 17 and 18 May on the island of Cozumel, territory of the Republic of Mexico.

USSR AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL14646 Hanava Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] Vitaliy Vorotnikov, USSR ambassador to Cuba, has held a fraternal meeting with Santiago de Cuba party bureau and provincial committee members following his arrival to the city which is the cradle of the revolution [Santiago de Cuba]. Angel Albarellos, second secretary of the PCC in the province, welcomed the visitor and wished him a pleasant stay in the city. During his stay in Santiago de Cuba, the USSR ambassador will tour sites of historical interest and economic installations being built with USSR cooperation.

Visit to Historical Sites

FL142156 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] USSR Ambassador to Cuba Vitaliy Vorotnikov has laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum which contains the remains of national hero Jose Marti at the Santa Efigenia cemetery in Santiago de Cuba. (Aleksandr Tachanovskiy), economic counselor of the USSR Embassy in Cuba, and (Eugenio Bedrin), Soviet consul general to the eastern provinces, participated in the homage to the mastermind of the assault on Moncada barracks. The distinguished visitor and his entourage toured the museums at the Siboney farm and Moncada, which were the principal settings of actions on 26 July 1953.

Arrival in Holguin

FL151044 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Text] Vitaliy Vorotnikov, USSR ambassador to Cuba, has arrived in Holguin to visit sites of economic and social interest in that province. He was received on his arrival by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary in Holguin [Province], and other PCC officials. The agenda on his stay in Holguin includes a tour today of the nickel plants [in the cities of] Nicaro and Moa, and the new nickel plant being built with Soviet cooperation located in Punta Gorda, a town in that mining region.

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERVISION ANNOUNCED

FL151034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] Cuba has been elected as a member of INTERVISION, the international organization which joins all radio and television organizations of the socialist countries. The announcement was made at the conclusion on Monday of the 29th General Assembly and the 54th meeting of the administrative council of the Organization of Radio and Television--OIRT--which had been meeting in Varna, Bulgaria since Wednesday 11 May. This new membership raises the number of INTERVISION member countries to 11. The other members are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, the USSR, the GDR, Romania and Mongolia.

OFFICIAL CHARGES SLANDER CAMPAIGN AGAINST GUZMAN

FL142352 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] The secretary of interior and police has asserted that officials in the last government, which was headed by former President Joaquin Balaguer, are financing a campaign to discredit President Antonio Guzman Fernandez.

Vicente Sanchez Baret said he has information on the persons who reportedly have given money to program producers [as heard] in Miami. The interior and police secretary said the money reportedly was given to program producers at a meeting held in a hotel in that North American city. He criticized the policy of the sectors that want to slander the conduct of Dominican Chief of State Antonio Guzman Fernandez.

AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON REFUTES RESIGNATION REPORTS

FL142346 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] Former Dominican Vice President Francisco Augusto Lora again has denied reports to the effect that he plans to resign his position as Dominican ambassador in Washington. The diplomat and president of the Democratic Integration Movement, after noting that he has acted with [word indistinct] and loyalty all his life, said that the press would not be first to know if he decides not to continue at the head of the Dominican mission in Washington. He declared that if he were to make such a decision, President Guzman will know it before anyone else because the president had the confidence to select him to do the job he is doing now.

SUGAR AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA TO BE MAINTAINED

FL142337 Santo Doming Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] The sugar agreement between the Dominican Republic and Venezuela will be maintained without any changes, the Venezuelan president has asserted. President Luis Herrera Campins received Dominican sugar officials in his office last week and assured them that the agreement will continue without modifications.

At the same time, the Venezuelan chief executive said his Social Christian government will begin to implement diversification of the existing agreement. [First name indistinct] (Tabar), assistant to the director general of the State Sugar Council, was a member of the Dominican delegation which went to Venezuela last week. (Tabar) also is secretary general of the Christian Social Revolutionary Party.

According to the agreement, Venezuela must acquire [presumably from the Dominican Republic] at least 50 percent of any sugar deficit it might have this year. [Words indistinct] President Herrera Campins expressed his firm conviction that the agreement would be maintained, (Tabar) asserted.

BRIEFS

ELECTORAL BOARD MEMBERS--Santo Domingo, 3 May (AFP)--The Senate today appointed the new members of the Central Electoral Board. They are Manuel Garcia Lizardo, Julio Genaro Campillo Perez and Vinicio Cuello. The board's president will be Garcia Lizarod. He is a former comptroller general with no known political affiliation. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

BAHAMAS

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER SHAH'S PRESENCE

PA142251 Paris AFP in English 2238 GMT 14 May 79 PA A A

[Text] Nassau, May 14 (AFP)--The weekend call by an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Court for the assassination of the exiled shah and his family has badly worried the authorities in the Bahamas, where he took refuge on March 30.

Well-informed sources here said that his two-month visa would probably not be renewed.

They did not exclude the possibility that the shah and his entourage (?would) be asked to leave by the end of this month, to avoid the risk of international terrorism on the tourist island.

The authorities were said to be concerned about the vulnerability of the shah's villa on Paradise Island, despite the exceptional security arrangements to guard him.

BARBADOS

CONCERN OVER CUBAN AID TO GRENADA EXAMINED

FL121550 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 May 79 p 4 FL

[ADVOCATE-NEWS editorial: "Those Cuban Arms in Grenada"]

[Text] Both Barbados' prime minister, Mr Tom Adams, and prime minister of St. Luca, Mr. John Compton, have come out against the introduction of any Cuban military presence in Grenada. It has been reported that the Cubans have sent arms worth some $5 million to Grenada, according to Mr. Compton. The St. Lucai leader said that the region was too closely knit and "too intimately intertwined" for such developments to be taking place and those around just attempt to treat the situation as "solely an internal matter," that is none of their business.

Mr. Compton also expressed the view that the Grenada military buildup was of such strength as to pose a threat to the neighbouring states and disturb the peace and security of the region.

Mr. Adams in objecting to any Cuban military presence in the region, felt that instead of turning to Cuba, Grenada might have turned to Martinique or Guadeloupe instead, who are well equipped, and according to Mr. Adams, would have been willing to give Grenada any assistance she needed.

What Mr. Adams has said about the willingness of Martinique and Guadeloupe to give Grenada military assistance will only cause more thought to be given to the Grenada decision to accept Cuban military aid. It might well be that the new Grenada revolutionary government felt more at home dealing with the Cubans. For all we know those who make the decisions might have felt they have more in common with the Cubans than with the French in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

But whatever the reasons, the Grenada decision is bound to create an uneasy feeling among her neighbours. Little has been said about the situation in the Trinidad and Tobago Government. But if we take the cue from Mr. Compton, it is not likely that the Williams government is unmindful of the developments in Grenada. iIt is also possible that the present uneasiness as expressed by Mr. Compton, but obviously felt by others as well, will colour any future considerations about Grenada where these territories are concerned.

It is not likely that when Mr Compton talks about the arms build-up in Grenada being a treat to neighbouring states that he envisages the Grenadians venturing forth to "liberate" their neighbours. It is just that with the possibility of the Cubans becoming more involved in Grenada's military strategy, if it might be so termed, Mr Compton is not happy as to what this "foreign influence" will mean, or what impact it will be encouraged to have, on those around.

It must be borne in mind that while there is a body of opinion which is quick to express admiration for Cuba, her achievements since the revolution there and her involvement in the happenings of other countries, the Cubans are at the same time regarded very warily by others. Secondly, the Cubans are not considered by a number of English-speaking territories as "brothers" in the same sense as the affinity between the CARICOM territories is regarded. It is also doubtful as to whether Cuba would see herself as having that strong a relationship merely out of a consciousness of regionalism.

Mr Compton did not spell it out, but his reference to the fact that Cuba had sent some estimated $5 million in arms to Grenada, but not even a bag of rice to St Vincent in her trouble, makes the point effectively.

It will take more than a sense of regionalism to encourage Cuba to become involved with certain of the territories or states in the region. And when she does become involved the question as to why will continue to be raised since it is not regarded as something that is automatically in the cards. There will be a search for motives, and some with inevitably regard these as ulterior.

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT WANTS TALKS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FL141825 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 May 79 pp 1, 15 FL

[By Norris Solomen]

[Text] The new Grenada Government is seeking talks with the and Tobago towards the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Prime minister of Grenada, Mr Maurice Bishop said yesterday: "We are about to initiate the development of some sort of dialogue between our government and the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago."

In a telephone interview with the GUARDIAN he said Grenada was anxious to hold the talks since it was considered "particularly important."

Explaining his reasons for wanting the discussions, he said: "We see urgent development of relations with Trinidad and Tobago as important because of the historic, economic and cultural ties between our two countries and peoples."

Grenada would begin working towards the possible talks within the week, he said, operating through official channels, and he was looking forward to talks with the Trinidad Government in the "most immediate future."

The Grenada prime minister also revealed that three weeks ago his government had written the prime ministers and premiers of eight countries in the region seeking a meeting to discuss deteriorating relations with Grenada but so far had received a response from one country only.

He said: "We would like to see what can be done at this stage to stop a further slide in relations and indeed to move further and extend and expand and develop the relations."

The countries he had written, he said, were the associated states and the two independent countries--Dominica and St Lucia.

He said that the most desirable meeting was of heads of government, but any feasible level would be welcome.

Mr Bishop is the head of the revolutionary government which seized power in an early morning mid-March coup from former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy.

In the telephone interview, Mr Bishop said: "We do not want any bad relations with any of our neighbours. We have stayed inside the Commonwealth and the Organisation of American States and CARICOM and despite tremendous pressures we have stayed in West Indies Shipping Association (WISA) and the ECCM.

"What we want is to have the best possible relations with all our neighbours and indeed with all countries of the world except racist and fascist countries."

Mr Bishop went on: "Our position is we would like people to respect our sovereignty and independence just like we respect theirs.

"Once any country demonstrates that they understand then we are certainly going to maintain the most warm and cordial and friendliest relations with them.

"But, we are not going to allow any country to threaten us militarily or in any other way try to destabilise our country whether by adverse propaganda attempts to wreck our economy or attempting to use or encourage anyone else to use force against us."

Mr Bishop said if there was any attempt at destabilisation, the government intended to inform the people of the attempts since the only way destabilisation could work was when it came like "a thief in the night" so that people did not realise what was happening.

Conscious, organised and united people, he said, did not have to fear the views of any individual or any country. He said that Grenada would not compromise the revolution or its integrity because of malicious distorted or false allegations, but would hit back.

Mr Bishop said that whenever he spoke of "our people' he saw "our people" as the entire Caribbean.

Explaining what he meant by deteriorating relations, Mr Bishop referred to the removal of the West Indian Court of Appeal from Grenada and alleged attempts to block money for Grenada at the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority with headquarters in St Kitts.

He also felt that statements made by some government officials and refusal of one government in the region to sit at a meeting in Barbados at which Barbados was represented were examples of the deteriorating relations.

Prime Minister Bishop said that Grenada would very much like to have a meeting to sit with leaders of other governments in the Caribbean to see what could be done to "bring about a better understanding and relationship between our countries."

"We see the Caribbean as having to move to the state of a Caribbean nation at some future time." He went on, adding "and it is very important to us that at all times maintain the best possible relationship with our Caribbean neighbours, governments and people.

Mr. Bishop said that in the letters sent to the governments calling for the meeting it was suggested that the meeting should be held in Grenada, but he said it did not matter whether the meeting was held in any other country.

Mr. Bishop explained that Grenada's efforts to initiate talks with Trinidad would be made through the Ministry of External Affairs.

He noted too that Grenada also had channels open for discussions with some other independent countries.

BISHOP SAYS PEOPLE READY TO DIE FOR REVOLUTION

FL141810 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 May 79 pp 1, 18 FL

[Text] Grenada is training troops and preparing its people's revolutionary army and militia for the defence of the country.

Mr. Maurice Bishop, prime minister of Grenada, said yesterday: "We believe we are more than adequate to deal with any mercenaries or any external threats at this point.

"Our population is ready to fight...they are going to die to safeguard the revolution if necessary," he said.

Mr. Bishop made the comments in a telephone interview with the "GUARDIAN" yesterday and he denied that there was any build up of arms in the CARICOM isle.

He said reports that Grenada had received $5 million worth of arms were "completely untrue. While explaining that there were countries in the Caribbean which had given assistance to Grenada in all forms, he declined to state categorically whether Grenada received military assistance or arms from any country.

Asked about reports that Cuba had been supplying arms to Grenada, he said the defence of Grenada was a security matter and he was not prepared to make statements on the issue.

Mr. Bishop said: "We believe very strongly that if there is a united and conscious people ready and willing to fight they cannot be vanquished."

Mr. Bishop, whosseized control of Grenada from former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy, explained that Grenada had sought assistance from several countries and had received positive reactions from some.

"There is no build-up of arms," he said. "We are trying to get what we regard as necessary to deal with any external threat."

Grenada always had arms, Mr. Bishop said, explaining that there were arms in the country already when his government took power in the mid-March early morning coup.

Referring to the Cuban situation in relation to Grenada, Mr. Bishop said: "The Cubans have set up diplomatic relations with our country and when the realtions were set up we commenced holding discussions on technical and economic assistance and co-operation and those discussions are continuing."

Aid Given

Since the new government was formed, he said, Surinam had established diplomatic relations and another country to be announced shortly had taken similar action. The prime minister said there were countries in the region which had given assistance and had not chosen to identify themselves, and as such he was not prepared to do so at this stage.

"There are some who have given assistance in all forms," he added.

Explaining that he could not state any particular point where threats to Grenada could be expected to come from, he said Grenada was no threat to the region but it appeared that the threats were coming from outside the region and directed at Grenada.

About the possible where-abouts of deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy, Mr. Bishop said the Grenada Government had a report yesterday morning that Sir Eric was in San Diego, California.

He said he understood that Gairy was still seeking to locate mercenaries. He was not in a position to speculate but Grenada would maintain maximum alertness and vigilance.

Following the revolution, Grenada sought assistance, including aid and arms, fromtthe United States and United Kingdom and Caribbean countries.

Both the United States and United Kingdom had not given any responses relating to military aid, Mr. Bishop noted.

A CANA report yesterday referred to a radio broadcast made by Mr. Bishop in Grenada on Tuesday night that a leading economist and adviser to several governments with close contacts with individuals in the State Department in the United States had advised that he had received information that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States had drawn up a plan to turn back the Grenada revolution.

The plan, he said, sought to destabilise the country by planting false reports about Grenada in the newspapers and on radio stations.

It was alleged that the plan also included violence and arson.

The report stated that the prime minister said it was clear so far that the first two stages of the plan were already in operation.

In the broadcast he dubbed as "false and malicious" reports that there were several hundred Cuban soldiers living in Grenada and training the People's Revolutionary Army and that there was a submarine base in Carriacou.

In the broadcast, he accused the prime minister of two independent Caribbean countries and a minister of government of a non-independent regional state of joining in the "attacks."

Questioned by telephone yesterday, he declined to name the prime minister and minister.

CARIBBEAN EXPERTS HELPING IN RECONSTRUCTION

FL141932 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] Numerous Caribbean experts and professionals have been working voluntarily in Grenada development projects since the popular triumph in March. Young specialists from Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Antigua, St Vincent and St Lucia as well as Grenadians who live abroad frequently visit the island to contribute their experience.

Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop stressed at a public rally yesterday the contribution of these Caribbean specialists to the efforts of the revolution to initiate national reconstruction. A group of experts from the English-speaking Caribbean currently is working on immediate and long-term projects in the agricultural, housing, foodstuff and fisheries sectors.